

Serial No. 10/604,061
Filed: 06/24/2003
Page 16 of 18

Examiner: N. Amiri
Group Art Unit: 3679

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-8, 10-35 and 37-87 are pending in this application. In the current Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10, 37, and 80 under various grounds of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 112. The rejections are respectfully traversed. The Examiner has indicated that claims 70-79 are allowed and has indicated that claims 4-5, 7, 11-35 and 38-69 are allowable if rewritten into independent form and/or a Section 112 rejection is overcome.

In this paper, Applicants have amended the claims as set forth above to more particularly and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants believe to be their invention and not for the purpose of avoiding prior art. The subject matter of claim 4 has been incorporated into claim 1 as amended. No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendment, full support therefor being shown in the drawings and specification as filed. The claims remaining in the application are believed by the Applicant to be allowable. New claims 88-91 have been added to capture the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner in claims 28-31.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-35, and 37-87, as amended where noted, and new claims 88-91 remain in the application. Further examination and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Previous Objections to Drawings - 37 CFR 1.83(a)

The Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's determination that the Applicants have overcome the objections to the drawings made by the Examiner in the previous Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 10, 37 and 80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Applicant has made appropriate amendments to claims 37 and 80 to clear up any confusion caused to the Examiner. Claims 1 and 10 needed no amendment, those claims clearly do not call for the first and second truss

Serial No. 10/604,061
Filed: 06/24/2003
Page 17 of 18

Examiner: N. Amiri
Group Art Unit: 3679

members to be positively claimed. It is believed that the Examiner's rejection has been overcome and that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 6, 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,094,059 to Ganesu ("Ganesu '059"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended with the previously-allowable subject matter of claim 4. Claims 2-3, 6 and 8 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are also allowable for the same reasons. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,423,898 to Tracy et al. ("Tracy '898"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 11 and this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, all claims remaining in this application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is submitted that all of the pending claims in the application are allowable over the prior art of record. Early notification of allowability is requested.

Serial No. 10/604,061
Filed: 06/24/2003
Page 18 of 18

Examiner: N. Amiri
Group Art Unit: 3679

If there are any remaining issues which the Examiner believes may be resolved in an interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN SIROWATKA

Dated: Nov. 21, 2005

By: G. Thomas Williams

G. Thomas Williams, Reg. No. 42,228
MCGARRY BAIR PC
171 Monroe Avenue, NW, Suite 600
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616-742-3500

G0195450